

Link Sought

To 'Mother

Of Year' Case

Police today arrested a young janitor in connection with the murder of a man found strangled, gagged and hogtied in a manner reminiscent of the year-old unsolved murders of Mother of the Year Mrs. Mary E. Martin and her daughter, Carolyn.

Oral Kenneth Lundell, who would have been 47 Thursday, was found yesterday face down on his bedroom floor in the duplex he rented at 9955 A. St. His right leg was bent back by a brown leather belt which was looped around his neck. The brown belt was tied around the instep of the right foot with another, black belt.

A gag, made of rags, had been stuffed into the victim's mouth and was secured with a white handkerchief.

His wallet, containing 17 cents, was on the floor beside him.

Police Capt. Alvin King said the suspect, 21, was arrested after he made a call to Lundell's apartment at about 2 a. m. today. King said the man being held knew Lundell.

He was to be given a lie detector test today.

King said the last known person to see Lundell alive was a business associate who spent the day with him Sunday.

Lundell had been dead from six to eight hours when his body was found, the coroner's office said.

The bizarre method of tying and gagging Lundell was similar to that of the unsolved Martin murders last Jan. 22. Mrs. Martin and her daughter had been hog-tied with their right feet to their throats.

Lundell's body was found by Eugene Swinnart, 31, who shared the four-room dwelling with him. Swinhart told police he unlocked the front door with his key at 2 p.m. yesterday, but could not open it because the night latch was still on. He walked around the building, entered through an

be New strangling

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open back door and called: "Ken, you home?"

He then found the body under the bedroom window, and called police.

The corps of inspectors who have been working on the Martin murder case was called immediately on the Lundell case.

The victim was fully dressed in a blue suit. A pair of furry slippers and a red pillow lay beside the body on the floor. The duplex was in a state of disarray, but apparently not from a search by intruders, but from neglect, police said.

Swinhart told police he had returned home to change clothes before leaving for work in the lithography department of a can company. He said Lundell worked as an electrical design engineer at the Nuclear Research Instruments, Inc., at 2800 7th St., Berkeley.

A neighbor of Lundell and Swinhart, Mrs. Mary Gollotte, of 9945 A St., told police she last heard Lundell's voice around 11 p.m. Sunday night. "It sounded like someone was bringing home a man who had been drinking," she said.

A brother of the victim, H. D. Lundell, of 24 Monticello Ave., Piedmont, told police his younger brother was "not a drinking man."

Swinhart told police he had known Lundell for seven years.

A chance conversation on a street in Hayward led Lundell to invite Swinhart to his home, at that time in Hayward.

A few weeks ago, Swinhart renewed the friendship by moving in with Lundell at the A Street address. Lundell had been living there for the past six months.

Lundell, habitually friendly with strangers, often brought them home for a meal and conversation.

"If that's what happened this time, it would greatly complicate our investigation," said Capt. King. Inspectors added that Lundell loved discussions on philosophy and technology and readily associated with men from all walks of life.

Lundell went to high school in his native Arlington, Ore., where he also took some technical courses at the Oregon Institute of Technology. His co-workers described him as "an electrical genius," who could put together anything he set his mind to.

Probe in Strangling Intensified

Police today probed into all corners of the world of Oral K. Lundell in an intensive effort to find the murderer who left his body strangled and hog-tied in his East Oakland duplex.

Inspector James Spence said there are "numerous potential suspects" but no arrests.

A 21-year-old janitor was released after interrogation and a lie detector test.

As he was cleared, police took up new angles of the case.

Lundell's body was found Monday by a roommate, Eugene Swinhart, in their East Oakland duplex. The victim was gagged and hog-tied in a manner reminiscent of the unsolved murders of Mother of the Year Mrs. Mary E. Martin and her daughter Carolyn.

Lt. DiFraia said the investigation is focused on two of Lundell's acquaintances who had talked to him on several occasions during the past few weeks.

Capt. Alvin King, chief of inspectors, said robbery is "a definite possibility" because one of the victim's trouser pockets had been turned inside out and his wallet contained only 17 cents. The wallet was found near the body.

Police also found three \$20 bills concealed in Lundell's inner coat pocket.

Lundell's death was caused by strangulation, according to the autopsy performed by Dr. Allen McNie. He said the victim had bruises on his face, which indicated he could have been beaten.

Lundell, who would have been 47 years old tomorrow, worked as an electrical design engineer.

Funeral services for Lundell will be held in Ione, Ore.

40 Quizzed

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In Strangling Death Probe

More than 40 persons were interrogated last night and early today in the strangulation slaying of Oral K. Lundell, whose bound and gagged body was found Monday by a roommate in their duplex at 9955 A street.

No leads were turned up and inspectors will continue their work in the East Oakland area frequented by the victim, according to Lieut. Dominic Di-Fraia, head of the homicide bureau.

Lundell would have been 47 today. His body was found by Eugene Swinhart, 31, who had known Lundell for seven years.

Swinhart said Lundell frequently brought home strangers for a meal or conversation.

The body was tied in a way similar to those of Mrs. Mary E. Martin and her daughter, Carolyn, slain last January. Investigators who have been working on that case have been assigned to the new case.

Police Seek Aid to Solve Strangling

Oakland police today asked help from anyone who might have seen Oral K. Lundell the day before his body was found strangled in his home at 9955 A St.

Police, who have run into a "dead end," are hoping that some one will come forward with information about Lundell's last hours.

At the time of discovery of his body Monday by a roommate, Lundell was described as having a sallow complexion, bald, wearing a charcoal green jacket, forest green sweater, a red checkered sport shirt, and dark brown pants.

Police asked anyone with any information to call the Oakland police department.

Suspect Arrested In Lundell Slaying

TR E SEP 3 1966

Robert Sandler, 20, is held by police for investigation of the murder of Oral Kenneth Lundell, who was found hog-tied and strangled in his home Dec. 28, 1964.

Sandler, an artist of 811 Clay St., apparently met Lundell near 12th Street and Broadway the evening of the murder and went to his home at 9955 A St., according to Police Inspector James Spence.

The officer would reveal no details of the investigation that led police to suspect Sandler.

Lundell, 46, an instrument technician, had been bound with two leather belts tied together looped around his neck and ankle. Cloths had been stuffed in his mouth.

The bizarre method in which the victim was tied brought to mind the unsolved murders of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Martin, Oakland Mother of the Year, and her daughter, Carolyn, in January, 1964.



ROBERT SANDLER

Spence said again today there is no connection whatsoever between Lundell's slaying and the Martin murders.

Artist Freed

By Police

THE SEP 7 1986

Oakland police released Robert Sandler, 20, an artist of 811 Clay St., yesterday after holding him in connection with the 1964 strangulation murder of Oral Kenneth Lundell in his East Oakland home.

Inspector Jack F. Richardson said Sandler was arrested last Friday on a tip.

Sandler was freed, Richardson said, because of insufficient evidence.

Lundell, 46, an instrument technician, was found hogtied and strangled in his home at 9955 A St. on Dec. 28, 1964.